

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 20, 2003, the Examiner requested Applicant to provide the serial number and status of the patent application cited in the cross reference to other application section on page 8 of the specification. Applicant has amended the specification of the application to provide the application serial number and the filing date of the cross referenced application. The application is still pending in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The Examiner has also indicated that the Applicant is required to furnish formal drawings in response to this Office Action. Applicant respectfully believes that formal drawings were filed with this application at the time of filing and that the drawings as filed are correct. In addition, Applicant notes that as of today's date, Applicant has not received a Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) form indicating that any changes need to be made to the drawings as filed. As such, Applicant cannot respond to this request at this time because Applicant is unaware of what problems, if any, there are with the drawings as originally filed.

Claims 1-41 of the present application have been rejected by the Examiner based on U.S. Patent No. 6,523,027 (issued to "Underwood") and U.S. Patent No. 6,529,948 (issued to "Amuah"). Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a Declaration of Prior Invention in the United States to Overcome Cited Patents (37 C.F.R. § 1.131) that has been executed by the inventor of this application. As indicated therein, Applicant is capable of establishing a date of conception at least as early as December 18, 1998, which is earlier than the effective date of either of the prior art references relied on by the Examiner. To that end, the prior art

references cited in support of the rejections should be removed from consideration, as they are no longer valid prior art references for this application.

Applicant believes that all of the present pending claims of this application are allowable and respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application indicating the same. In the event a telephone conversation would help expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (317) 636-0886. Also, please note that the suite address of Applicant's attorney of record has changed to the new address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Dean E. McConnell
Attorney Reg. No. 44,916

DEM/dlh

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
One Indiana Square, Suite 1600
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Telephone: 317-636-0886
Facsimile: 317-634-6701